

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, November 20. 1711.

THIS Humour of the Times is a mighty Stream, and we find few that can Resist it, nay, few that dare go about it, or make the Attempt—The Reason is, that it is a Dangerous part, full of Rocks to split on, and Shoals to Shipwreck on, and not one in Twenty that ventures the dangerous Voyage, but will be indeed, and is lost in the Attempt—Every Side is against him; if his Courage bears up a while, his Reputation will sink; one Side says he is Mercenary, and gone over to the Enemy; the other Side says he is coming over to them, but not knowing why, think him fickle; those that think him Ho-

nest, say he is Mad; so, in short, the Man is lost on every Side, and no wonder so few dare stand the Brui.

I am one of those unhappy few—Who, guided, as I hope, by Truth, and unconcern'd at Reproach, which Men blindly throw out on every Side, stand fast in the Defence of that true Interest of my Country, which I bless God from the bottom of my Soul, I espous'd from my Youth, and never could be frighted by Parties, or brib'd by Persuasions, no, not of the Greatest in the Nation, to forsake.

I confess, I defend it now under very unhappy Circumstances, viz. That they say the

the *French* and I Argue for the same Thing; the Tory Interest is wrapt up in my Argument——And, rash Men! some will have it, that I am turn'd High-Flyer——After I have first turn'd *Papist*, and then *Mahometan*, I may list for the Pretender; but take my Word for it, Gentlemen, I must do both the other first, for these Reasons.

First, I must turn *Papist*, that I may be Qualified to Sacrifice my Reason and Judgment to the Opinion of the Priest, and be led Blindfold by the Parson of the Parish; but then again, even the *Papist* is too Honest to own me; for having taken the Abjuration, and the Oaths to her Majesty, the *Papist* cannot allow my Allegiance to the Pretender, to be upon any Score tolerable, but upon an open Perjury, which they say they can grant no Dispensation for: Therefore I must turn *Turk*, and upon the Principle of no Faith to be kept with Christians, I may do well enough, and then may be a High-Flyer, that is, may take all the Oaths for the Government, abjure all its Enemies, and yet act for the Pretender——Nor do I think any Man who has taken these Oaths, can be a *Jacobite* upon any other Principles.

I am not at all better pleas'd with my Opinion about the *Spanish* Monarchy, because the *French* are of that Mind too——But I am not the less pleas'd with Truth, nor can I alter my Opinion, because all other People, who I esteem honest, cannot come over to it——Ye say the *French* and I are both for a *Partition*; had the *French* known their own Interest, they had never gone from the Treaty of *Partition*; if they are beaten into a willingness to accept what they reject'd before, does that weaken the Reason of the Case? But what is it to my Argument, of not giving *Spain* undivided to the Emperor, that the *French* are of the same Mind?——Let us distinguish rightly of Things, and this Case will be easily understood, and my part in it clear'd up.

The *French* are for Dividing it, because they see they cannot keep it all, and

they hope to have some of it in the *Partition*.

I Argue for Dividing, not to say who shall have this or that, but that the Emperor may not have it all, and thereby be put in a Posture of Strength equally Dangerous to *Europe*, with that Strength yon pull down; do but this, keep it from the Emperor, that the Protestant Interest may not be Ruin'd, and give it to who you will; see then if I Argue to give it to the *French*.

But to give it to the Emperor! This, I say, is pulling down Exorbitance on one Hand, and setting up Exorbitant Power on the other——I do not say nor argue for the giving *France* any Thing, or King *Philip* any Thing; if the Consequence implies giving any Thing there, I say, give as much to the Emperor, still to make him a Match for *France*——And give the Maritime Confederates such hold of all, as that they may be made strong enough to hold the Balance between both.

If this be Writing for *France*, or for *Tories*, let those that can make it out, appear with their mighty Arguments; I have been answer'd in part, by proving, how well *let the World judge*, the Weakness of the Emperor's Power——And the Gentleman quotes me, *Atlas Historique*, to prove, that the Emperor can raise but 90000 Men in all his Hereditary Dominions——Whereof 30000 in *Hungaria*——And yet the same Gentleman is pleas'd to do me the Favour to write in the *Flying-Post* of Novemb. 153 That the Emperor designs to maintain constantly in *Hungary* 50000 Men: Note, this is in Time of Peace too, the *Turks* being quiet, and the *Male-Contents* entirely suppress'd——This is such a Testimony to the Ignorance, or the Partiality of *Atlas Historique*, and that from my Opposer himself, as I can desire no more, in order to lay that Book aside.

If the Emperor can now in Time of Peace, as to *Hungaria*, maintain a standing Army of 50000 Men in *Hungary*, and yet has but very lately talk'd loudly of carrying on the

War against *France* with greater Vigour than ever — What must we say ? I am loth to let this be a Satyr on the Emperor's Councils, and enquire how easily the Imperialists may act with greater Vigour than ever, against *France*, and do no great Matters neither—I am loth to say, had they acted with Vigor and Justice before, the War had been over before now ; these are Things that look back upon the Dead, and the present Emperor cannot be blam'd for the Management of others ; but let us Examine what our Folk talk talk big of, in order to Encourage us to carry on the War, in Expectation of the new Vigour of the Empire.

They tell us, the Emperor shall act in Person upon the *Rhine* ; That he resolves to have 70000 Men there, besides the Troops of the Circles : That he will drein all his Garrisons, hire 18000 *German* Troops ; That he will have 50000 Men in *Spain*, and 18000 in *Piedmont*, and that he will let the Confederates see, that if he pleases to exert himself, he is able to be a Match for *France* — I believe *France* desires no more than to be left to try his Strength with him, but that by the by ; but if he performs this, I must observe ;

1. *Atlas Historique* must be a bad Calculator.
2. If all this without the *Spanish* Monarchy, What would he do with it ?

For this Reason I confirm my Argument with it, it cannot be safe to cloath a Prince with more Power, that after now almost 40 Years War, (for the Emperor from the Siege of *Vienna* has been in continual War) talks so big and is so Powerful, and especially considering two Things which I have not touch'd at yet, and shall but touch at now, referring it to a farther Discourse.

1. Was the Power of the Emperor's ever Great, but that Greatness was Employ'd against the Protestant Interest ?
2. Is it not so by the Natural Tendency of the Thing, and that no Emperor

of *Germany* can be over Great, but that Exorbitant Greatness is constantly, and must burst out upon the Protestant Interest of *Europe* ?

But our Opposer says, the Posterity of this Emperor is not likely to be chosen again, and in another Age they will be divided again, that is, that the next Emperor will not be King of *Spain*, as this is ; pray let this Argument have its due Weight ; I'll grant the Possibility, tho' I do not see the Probability at all ; but for Discourse sake I'll suppose it.

1. Is not this the same Argument which some use, and which I am sure my Opposer will not allow, for giving all to King *Philip*, because, in one Age more, or as soon as his Grandfather dies, he will be as much a *Spaniard* as if he was born there—To which it is Answer'd, He may be so, but he may not be so, and why should we run the hazard ? And I say but the same Words to the other.
2. But if this were so, would any wise Nation give a Prince a Dominion purely in hopes he shall not keep it ? Or Unite *Spain* and the Empire, depending upon their being Separated again ? Is not this thrusting a Man through with a Sword, on purpose to cure him again ?

If our hopes are, that the next Election shall divide the Empire from *Spain*, is it not much more prudent to keep them divided while they are so ?

But my Opposer tells me that the Treaty of *Westphalia* has effectually provided against the Exorbitance of the Emperor, and that I have given up the Cause, and granted it.

I am so desirous of being a fair Disputant in this Case, that I do readily grant him every Thing that may avoid Words, and Disputing about Trifles, Cavi', and the like ; and therefore I granted, that the Treaty of *Westphalia* had done so, that is, it had made all the Provision for that purpose, that a Treaty

Treaty can do— But I think he makes an unfair use of my readiness to grant Things, by taking hold of it with a View of Advantage where there is none.

I am not Arguing what the Emperor may Legally, or what he will do, if he observes Treaties, but what an Emperor may do, when prompted by Exorbitant Power, he shall be pleas'd to forget those Treaties, and set up an Army to Argue against it— Will you plead the Treaty of *Westphalia* to recruit Men in Arms? Will you talk Gospel to a Kettle-Drum, or Right and Property to a Regiment of *Hussars*?

The Treaty of *Westphalia* might have been Pleaded against, the King of *France* taking Possession of *Strasbourg*, or Building Fort *Louis*, Fort *Rhiel* and *Bunningen* upon the *Rhine*; but Power has been thought sufficient Argument in all such Cases; How often did the poor Protestants of *Si-*

essa plead the Treaty of *Westphalia* with the late Emperors, for the preserving their Churches and Schools? And how often have the oppress'd *Hungarians* pleaded with the Emperor the several Treaties Solemnly Sworn to by the Emperor? And to what purpose, till Force Resist'd Force, and they were fain to fight for it?

Yet are the Blinded Infatuated Protestants of this Nation, for putting Power in the same Hands, which have formerly so much abus'd it, and to gratifie their Party-Weakness, are willing to trust to an Empty Treaty for Security; and all this, for fear of putting that Power into the Hands of the *French*— As if there was no Mediator; as if the *Spanish* Monarchy was fated to Erect one Tyrant or another, and there could be no Way to prevent the Exorbitance of either.

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEREAS true French Brandy is hardly to be got in London, unmix'd, at any Price; this is to inform, that a Merchant having some very fine by him left undispos'd of, old mellow, and right Brandy, that cost 15 s. 3 d. a Gallon at first Hand some Time ago, has caus'd some of it to be put up in Quart and Pint Bottles, at 5s. and 2 s. 6 d. Bottles and all; each seal'd with his own Seal, to prevent any from being impos'd upon, viz. a *Fleurs de Lys* in a Pale, a Half-Moon for the Crest. He is not willing, as some have done, to expose himself in this publick Way, and yet desirous Gentlemen who will go to a Price may have it; and to conceal himself at present will not so dispose of it at his own House, but hath put it in a Cellar under Mr. Huges's, Peruke maker, in George-Yard, Lombard-street; and Mr. Smith at the Post House in Russel-street, Covent-Garden, who will deliver it out to any one that comes. It may be depended on to be good, and answer the Character fully.

There are 2 or 3 that have lately taken Cellars, pretending to sell at 12 s. 3 d. a Gallon; I affirm it is not right, for I'll give 16 s. 3 d. a Gallon, for such as is above described; and if Coffee-Houses and publick Houses will buy such for Cheapness, such Gentlemen must drink they know where to have other and not be Cheated, if they will go to the Price.

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